

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 6, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The expression "the latter" has been replaced with the expression "the hollow cylinder" in claims 6 and 16. Claim 17 depends on claims 16. The rejection is traversed.

As suggested in the Office Action, claims 4 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 24 and 25 respectively. Claims 24 and 25 are allowable.

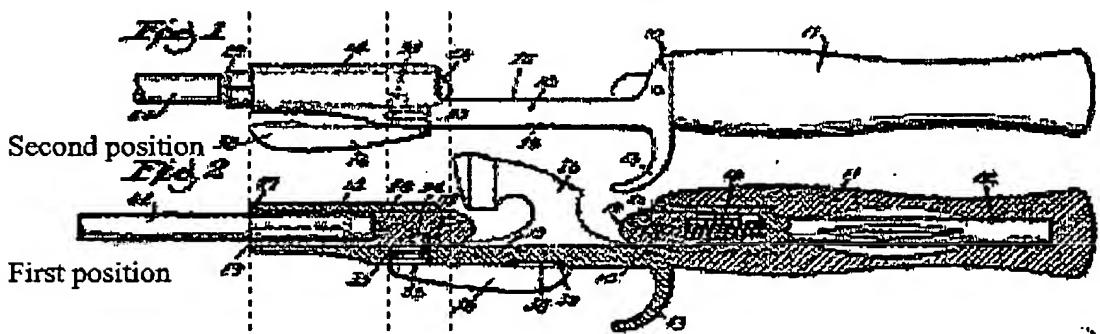
Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17 and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 3,175,323 to Axelsson.

Axelsson teaches a fishing rod having a rod shaft 44 with a handle mounted to the rear portion of the rod shaft 44. The handle has an adapter 28 (or plunger) engaged over the rear portion of the rod shaft 44 and a hollow cylinder 14 (forward end 14 of the handle) having a peripheral wall with an outer face. The peripheral wall defines a cavity (or tubular passage) in which the adapter 28 (or plunger) is inserted. An intermediate section 13 of the handle is juxtaposed rearwardly to the hollow cylinder 14. The intermediate section 13 defines a reel seat 25 for mounting a reel 26 to the handle. The plungers 19, 28 fasten the reel to the intermediate section 13. This is contrary to the present invention wherein the outer face of the hollow cylinder has a reel seat for mounting a reel thereto, over the cavity in which the adapter is inserted.

As mentioned above, the reel seat 25 is juxtaposed to the hollow cylinder 14. The reel 26 is fastened to the reel seat 25 with the adapter 28 (or plunger) and a second plunger 19. The adapter 28 is slidably mounted into the cavity of the hollow cylinder 14. The adapter 28 slides in the cavity between two positions: a first position wherein a first end of the adapter 28 covers the foot of the reel 26 for fastening the latter to the reel seat 25 (figure 2, see below) and a second position wherein the adapter 28 is retracted into the cavity (figure 1). In both positions, the adapter 28 remains in the hollow cylinder 14. For fastening the reel 26 to the reel seat 25, the reel 26 is disposed over the reel seat 25 and the adapter 28 is moved in the first position. For removing the reel 26 from the reel seat 25, the adapter 28 is moved in the second position and the reel 26 can be removed from

the reel seat 25. Therefore, the adapter 28 secures the reel 26 to the reel seat 25. The hollow cylinder 14 and the reel 26, mounted to the reel seat 25, are not removable as a single unit from the adapter 28 since the adapter 28 fastens the reel 26 to the reel seat 26. That teaches away from the present invention wherein the hollow cylinder is removable from the adapter as a single unit with the reel mounted to the reel seat.

The adapter 28 taught by Axelsson slides in the hollow cylinder 14 by rotating a lever 36. The lever 36 has a stud 34, which is engaged in a notch 37 in the adapter 28. Referring to figures 1, 2, and 4 shown below, there is shown that, without removing the lever 36, the stud 34 cannot be disengaged from the notch 37, the adapter 28 cannot be removed from the hollow cylinder (figure 4). As shown in figures 1 and 2, the lever 36 is not designed to be removable since it is integrated into the handle. The adapter 28 slides in the cavity by pivoting the lever 36 between a first position, wherein it extends below the reel seat 25, and a second position wherein the lever 36 extends below the hollow cylinder 14. In the first position of the lever 36 (figure 2), the stud 34 is located proximate to the reel seat 25 (relatively to the second position), the adapter 28 extending over the reel seat 25 for securing the reel 26 disposed thereto. In the second position of the lever 36 (figure 1), the stud 34 is located proximate to the rod shaft 44 (relatively to the first position), the adapter 28 being retracted into the cavity. This is contrary to the present invention wherein the adapter is slidably insertable into the cavity and the hollow cylinder is removable from the adapter for allowing the reel and the hollow cylinder to be mounted and dismounted from the adapter as a single unit.





In the handle taught by Axelsson, when releasing the reel 26 from the reel seat 25 by pivoting the lever 36 into the second position (figure 1), the flare 29 of the adapter is released from the hollow cylinder, simultaneously releasing the pressure applied on the rod shaft 44 to maintain the latter into the adapter 28. This is contrary to the present invention wherein the adapter is secured to the rod shaft. Therefore, when the reel, as an assembly with the hollow cylinder, is removed from the adapter, the adapter remains secured to the rod shaft. The Examiner is referred to column 2, lines 19 to 34 of Axelsson which clearly describe the steps for simultaneously inserting a rod shaft 44 into the adapter 28 and mounting the reel 26 to the reel seat 25. For removing the reel 26 from the reel seat 25, the same steps are applied in the reversed order.

Moreover, the handle taught by Axelsson has a handgrip portion 12. The handle is mounted to the proximal end of the rod shaft 44. The reel 26 is directly mounted to the handle, in front of the handgrip portion 12. This is contrary to the present invention wherein the adapter is secured over a rear portion of the rod shaft. The rear portion extending past a handgrip.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 10, and 20 are novel over Axelsson and 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3, 6, 12-13, 16-17, and 21-23 depend on claims 1, 10, and 20 and are also believed to be novel.

Claims 1, 6, 10, 16, 17, and 20 to 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 5,697,184 to Heller.

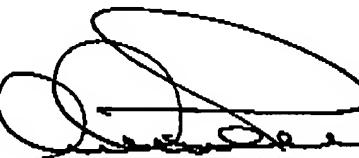
Heller teaches a fishing rod having a rod shaft 9 (figure 9), a wood arbor 13, which is associated with the adapter in the Office Communication, a reel seat 5 including, amongst others, a shank portion 27, 27a, which has the shape of a hollow cylinder, and a lower end 25. As stated in column 2, lines 47 to 49, "... the reel seat 5 has a lower end 25 having an

opening therein which is slid over and glued to the wood arbor 13". Moreover, as stated in the method of assembly in column 3, lines 19 to 23, "... the reel seat 5 is then slid over and glued to arbor 13. In the alternative embodiment, reel seat 5a would be slid over and glued to arbor 13. Thus, a complete fishing rod in accordance with the instant invention is assembled." Therefore, the hollow cylinder (or reel seat 5, 5a having a shank portion 27, 27a) is not removable from the adapter 13 (or arbor) since they are glued together when assembling the fishing rod. This is contrary to the present invention wherein the adapter is slidably inserted into the cavity of the hollow cylinder and the reel and the hollow cylinder can be mounted to and dismounted from the adapter, which is secured to the rod shaft, as a single unit.

Claims 1, 10, and 20 are patentable over the prior art and claims 6, 16-17, and 21-23 depend from an allowable independent claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification and claims as amended render the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objections is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that persecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 22, 2005